

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016

The regular meeting for the Board of Selectmen convened at 7:00 p.m. in the public meeting room in the Town Office Building at 110 Main Street. In attendance were Dr. Richard M. Smith, John R. Morrell, and Edward S. Harrison. Also present were Town Administrator Evan Brassard and the media.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Harrison made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of April 26, 2016 – executive session and May 24, 2016 – open and executive sessions. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Tree City USA:

Valerie Beaudoin approached the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Tree Committee and announced Monson was accepted for the second year as a Tree City USA. Ms. Beaudoin handed Mr. Morrell new stickers to go on the bottom of the Tree City signs currently installed in town. Ms. Beaudoin presented Mr. Brassard a small wooden plaque to go under our current Tree City plaque in the hallway across from our office. This plaque will be good for the next five years since it has room for each year to be added.

Ms. Beaudoin said she will keep people posted over the summer months by posting on their website, any information they receive about the infestation of the ash borer and the gypsy moth.

Ms. Beaudoin noted the Tree Committee is going to be looking for information from the Board of Selectmen and the community through their town website on projects for the upcoming year and potentially the following year. There's still have money available at the State level, but the Tree Committee has to put projects together to show it is shovel ready before the funds can be released. They will be looking for projects still dealing with the tornado affected areas; doing additional plantings in residential backyards where acreage may have been lost and trying to replant some of those trees.

Ms. Beaudoin noted Monson has been allocated \$300,000 but it hasn't actually been awarded as we need to have plans as to what is actually going to take place and who it's going to benefit. Ms. Beaudoin said the Tree Committee is hoping to take the money in smaller chunks because once you apply for the money, that's what you get, and if you don't spend it all, it's gone. The Tree Committee is looking at spreading this money out over several years. They have identified possibly Frisbee golf and doing plantings at Flynt Park; the Senior Center has contacted them about the possibility of the lot they purchased behind the facility; and Monson Free Library has contacted them about helping with the area they recently purchased next to the Library to extend their parking lot.

Monument Completion:

Dave Beaudoin approached the Board of Selectmen regarding the new granite message board in front of the Town Office Building, noting it is officially done. It's all sealed so no water can access it from the top or the sides.

The Board of Selectmen agreed a gorgeous job was done in constructing the structure.

Mr. Brassard added it's really an art form and it was fascinating the way they figured out the cuts and mortared the joints.

It was suggested to send a letter thanking the Sanderson family for their very generous contribution of the message board, and to Hampden Zimmerman for the donation of the lighting.

The Board and Mr. Brassard thanked Mr. Beaudoin for all of his work.

Harassment Policy:

Mr. Brassard explained this is really an Anti-Bulling/Anti-Harassment Policy, and added it was recommended and given to us by Town Counsel.

Mr. Morrell said he felt this policy would make everyone afraid to talk to anyone or joke around, out of fear of getting in trouble.

Mr. Brassard said we do a lot of joking around; the difference is you need to know when to stop if it is unwelcomed, persistent, or has malicious intent, and added this just gives us another level of backup to our existing policies if an occasion were ever to arise that needed to be addressed. The redundancies will be cleaned up.

Mr. Harrison said he hasn't had a chance to look at this proposed policy yet.

The acceptance vote for this policy was tabled until the June 28th meeting.

BOS Rules and Procedures:

Dr. Smith said the Board of Selectmen Rules and Procedures Policy is pretty thorough.

Mr. Morrell felt the policy covers everything and provides a good guide.

Mr. Brassard added it gives some kind of operational documentation and defines the roles of the Board of Selectmen versus the Town Administrator, and felt this is a good document to have available.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to adopt the Board of Selectmen Rules and Procedures Policy as presented. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

The Board thanked Mr. Brassard for all of his hard work in drafting this policy.

Respect Policy:

Mr. Brassard explained the Respect Policy deals directly with protecting classes. It's for new hires, and to do a refresher for the employees.

Mr. Morrell said once the Anti-Harassment Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and the Respect Policy are accepted, he felt the Department Heads and the AFSCME employees should get together to go through this policy at the same time, so it won't have to be explained numerous times.

Mr. Brassard replied as we move forward, he would like to see refreshers or training done on an annual basis.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to adopt the Respect Policy as presented. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Capital Planning Priorities:

Mr. Brassard said the Capital Improvement Plan Committee is looking for a list of priorities.

Dr. Smith noted he likes #1 – efficiency of government; #2 – schools; and #4 – economic development.

Mr. Brassard noted the list of choices is: efficiency of government, economic development, education, public safety, cultural recreational opportunities, aesthetic historic preservation, public health, and environmental sustainability.

Mr. Harrison said the number one priority has always been public safety when developing the budget, and added it encompasses a lot of the funds.

Dr. Smith noted the school system attracts more people to the town, and felt we do what we can so it plateaus rather than let the taxes go up and up.

Mr. Morrell said the roads are important to get people in and out of town, and agreed it's a hard list because they are all important.

Mr. Brassard said he feels the cultural opportunities and historic preservation are important as well, and added the plan will set the funding source; the Board just needs to come up with the plan.

Mr. Brassard noted capital isn't just cars and trucks, it's the buildings too; boilers, roofs, etc. and that's what this plan is supposed to achieve; it will help with the financial strategies.

Mr. Brassard said he would like the list emailed to him by June 27th to be discussed on the 28th at the Selectmen's meeting.

Reappointments:

Mr. Harrison read page one into the record and made a motion to approve the appointments as described. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Mr. Harrison read pages two and three into the record and made a motion to approve them. Dr. Smith seconded. Mr. Harrison – aye; Dr. Smith – aye; Mr. Morrell abstained from voting as he was on the list for reappointments.

Mr. Morrell read page four into the record. Mr. Harrison made a motion to appoint the individuals listed. Dr. Smith seconded. Mr. Harrison – aye; Dr. Smith – aye; Mr. Morrell abstained from voting. No action was taken on the Tree Warden as it was noted this will be discussed at the Selectmen's meeting on June 28th.

Mr. Morrell read pages five and six into the record up to the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Dr. Smith made a motion to appoint the aforementioned as attached. Mr. Harrison seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Dr. Smith reads the remaining portion of page six and page seven into the record. Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the appointments as read. Dr. Smith made a motion to amend the list for Local Partnership for Economic Development to include Daniel Laroche. Mr. Harrison seconded. Mr. Harrison – aye; Dr. Smith – aye; Mr. Morrell abstained as his name is on the list for reappointment.

Mr. Harrison read the reappointments for the Police Department into the record. Mr. Morrell made a motion to approve as read. Mr. Harrison seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Mr. Harrison read the reappointments for the Fire Department into the record. Mr. Morrell made a motion to approve as read. Mr. Harrison seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Correspondence was read and completed.

In Other Business to Come Before the Board:

- Mr. Brassard said a new design was received today on the skate park and noted this will be on the next agenda. This is already in the hands of the insurance company and they will oversee the construction of it. The new design came in at \$170,000 and will have an asphalt pad with a combination of wooden/metal/polly structures. Mr. Brassard said hopefully this will be done by the end of the summer.
Mr. Harrison asked what the longevity of the equipment is compared to concrete. Mr. Brassard responded he wasn't sure, ten to fifteen years, and possibly a lot longer with a good maintenance program.
- Mr. Harrison complemented the Monson Garden Club for doing a nice job on the Memorial Hall monument. Mr. Brassard noted the Highway Department helped them out with some loam and

seeding, and also picked up the pavers. Mr. Brassard noted Jim Wawrzyk with Mulch-n'-More donated the mulch for free. Mr. Brassard agreed the Garden Club did a fantastic job.

- Dr. Smith questioned the Memorial Day parade and why the American Legion who sponsors it never approaches the Board of Selectmen for permission to request road closures, etc. and wondered where we stand on this. Dr. Smith felt if they came into a meeting to explain their plans it would be a good way for them to promote the Memorial Day parade.

Mr. Brassard said he felt it's a good process to renew the communication as well, and said this past Sunday he was going through the Police Chief to get information on canceling the parade due to the rain in order to push out the information to let people know not to come down here.

At 8:16 p.m., Mr. Harrison made a motion to adjourn from open session to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to non-union personnel pursuant to M.G.L. C. 30A, Sec. 21 (2) and collective bargaining or litigation pursuant to M.G.L. C. 30A Sec. 21 (3), not to return to open session. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Edward S. Harrison, Clerk